

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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APPROVED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND

EUR/NE:MRS. SHIRLEY

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R 082327Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US, BE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIAN MINISTER CAHEN

REF: STATE 187088

1. SUMMARY: IN THE COURSE OF MEETING TO DISCUSS ZAIRE'S FINANCIAL PROBLEM (SEE REFTEL), BELGIAN MINISTER CAHEN ALSO REPORTED BISENGIMANA'S COMMENTS ON COUP CHARGES AND SPECULATED ABOUT WHO MIGHT BE THE NEXT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE.

2. CAHEN SAID THAT ON JULY 21 BISENGIMANA HAD CALLED HIM FROM PARIS. AMONG OTHER TOPICS THEY HAD DISCUSSED WAS THE ABORTIVE COUP AND CHARGES OF US INVOLVEMENT. BISENGIMANA HAD SAID IT WAS CLEAR NOW THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL US INVOLVEMENT, BUT THAT A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS (UNNAMED) HAD STARTED THE BALL ROLLING ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AND

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HAD THEN LEFT ZAIRE. CAHEN SAID HE HAD TOLD BISENGIMANA

THAT HE WAS SURE USG HAD BEEN AS SURPRISED AS HE (CAHEN) AT THE CHARGES AND THAT THE US HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. BISENGIMANA HAD SAID THAT HE NOW KNEW THAT TOO.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, CAHEN SAID THAT THE BELGIAN PRESS HAD BEEN MENTIONING HIS NAME, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT HIS OWN CHANCES WERE NOT GOOD: HE WAS A BIT YOUNG FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT POST (KINSHASA BEING ONE OF GOB'S 10 OR 12 CLASS ONE MISSIONS);HE HAD ONLY BEEN IN WASHINGTON FOR ELEVEN MONTHS; AND MOBUTU WANTED HIM TOO MUCH. (WHEN MINISTER OF COMMERCE TOUSSAINT VISITED KINSHASA FOR FIKIN, CAHEN SAID,MOBUTU ASKED TOUSSAINT, "WHEN WILL YOU SEND ME ALFRED?") CAHEN SAID HE THOUGHT ANOTHER CAREER AFRICANIST, RITTWEGE DE MOOR, WAS FIRST IN THE RUNNING. DEMOOR WAS CONGENERAL IN BUKAVU AT INDEPENDENCE, HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA AND KENYA, AND IS PRESENTLY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IN BRUSSELS. SINCE DEMOOR IS OLDER AND HAS PREVIOUS AMBASSADORIAL EXPERIENCE, CAHEN FELT DEMOOR'S PROSPECTS LOOKED BRIGHTER THAN HIS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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